

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



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Labeling Bill Returned to House for Approval of Senate Amendment

As stated in last week's Information Letter, the Senate on June 6 passed the McNary labeling bill (S.1133), with an amendment proposed by Senator Copeland. Previously the House had passed the Mapes bill (H. R. 730), which was identical with the original McNary bill.

To facilitate action on this legislation by the House the Senate on June 11 took up the House bill, which had been referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, discharged that committee from further consideration of the House bill, and then proceeded to consider the Mapes bill. Senator McNary offered as an amendment to this bill the Senate bill (S. 1133) as passed by the Senate on June 6. This amendment was adopted and the vote whereby the Senate bill (S. 1133) was passed was reconsidered and the Senate bill indefinitely postponed.

By this procedure the House bill as amended by the Senate goes back to the House for concurrence in the amendment. This procedure was followed in order to expedite action on the legislation.

Canning Pea Conditions

The following information on condition of canning peas in the various States was compiled by the Division of Crops and Livestock Estimates of the U. S. Department of Agriculture from special reports of the Department's agricultural statisticians in several of the States and from reports made to the

Department by canners, growers and others in active touch with the situation.

WISCONSIN—Under date of June 9, Agricultural Statistician Ebling reports: "The latest information available indicates that the area of peas planted in Wisconsin this year is about 125,000 acres, of which about one-half are Alaskas and one-half Sweets. On May 17 a severe freeze covered most of the State of Wisconsin and damaged practically all of the Alaska peas that were far enough along to be affected, except such areas as were protected by the close proximity of lakes or other local factors. An inquiry sent to Wisconsin canners on May 26 to obtain information on the extent of this damage was not successful because many canners had not yet learned the extent of their losses. This inquiry revealed, however, that on May 16 about 91 per cent of Wisconsin's Alaska acreage had been planted, and that 72 per cent of it was up above ground. On June 4 another inquiry was mailed to the canners of Wisconsin and sixty reports were received in time for tabulation on June 9.

"This tabulation shows that 55 per cent of the Alaska acreage in Wisconsin was damaged by frost, either on the morning of May 17 or by minor frosts which followed. Of this 55 per cent of damaged acreage these canners estimated that 6 per cent would not be harvested, that 29 per cent was seriously damaged and would make only 36 per cent of a normal crop, and that the remaining 20 per cent was slightly damaged and would make 62 per cent of a normal crop.

"Assuming that the 6 per cent not harvested is a total loss from the standpoint of canning and a 64 per cent loss on the 29 per cent of Alaska acreage seriously damaged, and taking 38 per cent loss on the 20 per cent slightly damaged, the computation shows a net loss of 32 per cent on the entire Alaska acreage as resulting from frost damage. Reducing the percentage of Alaskas frosted to acres we estimate that about 34,500 acres of Alaska peas in Wisconsin were frost damaged this year. Of these about 3,700 acres will not be harvested and 29 per cent, or about 18,300 acres will only make 36 per cent of a normal pack and 12,500 acres were slightly damaged and will make 62 per cent of a normal crop.

"It is well known that in a normal year the Sweets yield higher than Alaskas. Reviewing data in this office gathered during the last two years on yields indicated that the Alaskas have been yielding about 75 cases per acre for the State and the

Sweets about 90 cases. On that basis with an even division of acreage between Alaskas and Sweets, the total production would be about 45 per cent for Alaskas and 55 per cent for Sweets with normal yields. If the 32 per cent loss above indicated on the Alaska crop from frost damage is correct and the potential production of Alaskas under normal conditions was 45 per cent of the State total, then the frost damage to the State total resulting from the reduction of the Alaska crop becomes slightly less than 15 per cent.

"While no definite information exists concerning the effect of the various frosts on Sweets, the most expert opinion available indicates that damage to Sweets from frost so far is slight, and while some of the early plantings may have been delayed so as to cause some bunching at canning time, the prospect for a normal pack (per acre) of Sweets exists at the present time. If a normal pack of Sweets is harvested and the Alaskas turn out as indicated by the estimates of the sixty canners who reported on the June 4 inquiry, Wisconsin would harvest about 85 per cent of the pack that might have been expected from the 1930 acreage without the frost.

"While no specific information can be given of the effect of the frost on quality, it is certain to be serious. Fancy Alaska peas will probably be scarce and much of the frosted acreage is certain to yield a low grade pack in addition to a much reduced volume."

MINNESOTA—A report from the Minnesota statistician on June 6 contained the following: "There is evidence that the Alaska peas suffered considerable damage as a result of frosts May 17th and 29th in most sections. Estimates of damage vary from 0 to 75 per cent loss, depending on locality and stage of growth at time of frost. Consensus of opinion indicates that plantings after April 25th were not materially affected. It is believed that damage to Sweets was slight because of late planting compared to Alaskas.

"As near as can be ascertained at this time about 35-40 per cent of the pea acreage is Alaskas, and based on reports of damage, the total loss expressed in terms of acres would be about 1,700 acres, or 22 per cent of the Alaskas. Expressed as a per cent of total acreage the loss would be about 8 per cent of the acreage. There is considerable uncertainty as to what the actual damage is and what the final outcome will be."

ILLINOIS—A survey made in northern Illinois last week in-

dicates that the frost damage extended south to approximately Rochelle and De Kalb. Checking the acreages of the various canners located in this frost affected area of northern Illinois indicated that 25 per cent of their acreage is in Alaskas and 75 per cent in Sweets. The best information available indicates that the Alaska yields in this section would be reduced about 15 per cent by the frost damage. This 15 per cent when related to the probable total pack of this region becomes about 4 per cent of the total. Sweets in northern Illinois were looking good.

MICHIGAN—The crop is reported as "looking good", with present condition at 90 per cent of normal. No frost damage reported to date (June 2).

INDIANA—Prospects do not appear as good as two weeks ago, due to dry weather in many sections of the State.

OHIO—Conditions improved somewhat over two weeks ago, but notwithstanding this improvement, present prospects indicate only 74 per cent of a normal yield.

MAINE—Condition reported as 90 per cent of normal.

NEW JERSEY—Crop about half canned on June 1 and is very short on account of dry weather.

NEW YORK—Stands are reported as good and the plants as looking "thrifty." No frost damage reported. Present conditions indicate a good crop.

PENNSYLVANIA—Conditions have been unfavorable for peas and yields will probably not exceed three-fifths of normal.

DELAWARE—Hot, dry weather during May has been very disastrous to the pea crop in Delaware. Canning operations are about finished in the southern part of the State, while in the northern part, they are still progressing. Reports to date indicate that yields will be little more than a third of those obtained last year.

MARYLAND—The same adverse conditions that prevailed in Delaware, consisting of hot, dry weather during the critical blooming period, together with aphid damage, have resulted in crop prospects not exceeding two-fifths of a normal yield. In the section of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Delaware where the canning of peas has been completed, reports from canners who handled more than one-fourth of the Tri-State pack of 1929 indicate that their pack this year will not be more than 16 per cent of last year's pack. In western Maryland, however, the crop came through the drought in somewhat better shape,

and yields are expected to be higher than those on the eastern shore.

COLORADO—The pea crop helped materially by recent, general rains. The crop not adversely affected by recent cold spell and condition is reported as 85 per cent of normal.

MONTANA—Spring conditions have been very favorable for planting and early growth of both seed and canning peas. Some peas were still being planted on June 1.

UTAH—Although a slight frost occurred on May 23, the present condition of the crop is reported as 92 per cent of normal.

The first forecast of production on canning peas will be released about June 23.

Fruit Crop Prospects

A crop of apples and pears slightly larger than last year, and a smaller crop of peaches, are indicated by the report of the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates as of June 1. The report makes the following comment:

APPLES.—The condition of apples was reported on June 1 at 56 per cent as compared to 66.6 on June 1 last year and 68.3, the average condition for the preceding ten years. While no definite forecast is made on the first of June, a crop but slightly in excess of the short 1929 production seems likely. In most of the Central states a light crop seems to be in prospect. In the North Atlantic states a crop a little better than in 1929 seems probable, while in the West a production hardly as large as last year may be expected.

PEACHES.—The condition of peaches on June 1 was reported at 47 per cent, which compares with 54.7 on June 1 last year and 66.1, the average for the month for the preceding ten years. The condition reported is the lowest for the first of June since the very poor year of 1921. Based upon the conditions reported, the forecast of production is 45,443,000 bushels, which would be about 1 per cent less than the rather light 1929 crop and only about four-fifths of the average production during the preceding five years.

PEARS.—The prospects for pears this year are slightly better than a year ago. In the country as a whole the condition of pears was reported as 62.6 which is comparable to 58.5 on June 1 last year and 66.3 the June 1 average during the ten years 1919 to 1928. The forecast of production is about 23,000,000 bushels, which would be about 7 per cent more than were pro-

duced in 1929 and nearly 6 per cent more than the average production for the preceding five years.

Truck Crop Markets

According to the U. S. Market News Service, movement of tomatoes from Texas, Mississippi and Florida together averaged about 400 carloads each day during the week ended June 7. Texas and Mississippi now exceed all other sections as sources of supply.

Movement of peaches from Georgia was becoming fairly important, with 140 cars shipped during the week. The crop of Early Rose peaches was just beginning to move, as the season is delayed. Output of watermelons from Florida, Texas and California was rapidly increasing.

Apple shipments were down to 40 cars daily, and movement of celery from California and Florida was scarcely any heavier than the apple forwardings. Washington and Oregon were shipping a few cherries, but California originated 255 cars. Half of the week's total of 825 cars of cucumbers came from South Carolina. The Alabama supply of cucumbers was fast decreasing.

North Carolina shipped 320 cars of string beans, while Virginia, Mississippi and Tennessee each furnished about 70 cars. Total movement of beans was almost twice that of a year ago. Plum and prune shipments from California increased greatly to 250 cars.

Tomato shipments increased sharply to 2,425 cars for the week, or about the same as a year ago. Texas sent 1,250 cars and Mississippi 975 cars to market. Florida had decreased to 155. The shipping season opened in Arkansas.

Imperial Valley cantaloupe movement decreased to 1,770 cars for the week, but Arizona and Texas each increased slightly, though their output was light.

Eastern Shore strawberries were about finished. Delaware output increased to 100 cars, while Maryland decreased to 135 for the seven-day period. New Jersey became active with 75 cars by rail. The week's movement was only 440 cars, in addition to haulings by truck. Many of the northern producing sections were getting under way last week. Total shipments this season to date have been only 10,475 cars, compared with 18,085 a year ago.

Cabbage markets were very weak. Tennessee became the leading source of supply in the Middle West, with 255 cars, but

Virginia led in the East with 280 cars. Total of 665 was about half of the corresponding movement for the 1929 season. Mississippi shipments were nearly completed.

Total forwardings of 31 fruits and vegetables increased to 19,520 cars, but were 3,000 less than movement of the same week last season.

Commodity	CARLOT SHIPMENTS					
	June 1-7 1930	May 23-31 1930	June 2-6 1929	Total this season to June 7	Total last season to June 8	Total last season
Apples, total	258	311	184	102,250	127,320	127,320
Eastern States	92	97	80	31,115	62,532	62,708
Western states	166	214	95	31,135	64,697	64,622
Asparagus	35	42	32	2,623	1,967	2,110
Cabbage	665	773	1,202	14,093	20,299	44,142
Carrots	275	288	412	8,604	8,082	12,101
Cherries	266	235	201	806	496	2,395
Cucumbers	823	647	554	3,489	4,317	7,458
Green peas	19	23	87	3,509	2,914	5,197
Mixed vegetables	785	796	663	10,878	16,629	32,480
Mixed deciduous fruits..	67	24	41	91	60	5,192
Peaches	154	12	364	169	517	35,451
Peppers:						
Domestic	102	123	63	1,492	1,794	3,288
Imports	2	3	0	246	290	290
Plums and prunes	248	105	136	378	146	6,046
String beans	635	648	373	6,949	6,293	8,027
Strawberries	573	1,187	680	11,535	18,180	16,721
Tomatoes	3,427	1,485	2,344	11,928	15,162	31,946

Navy Seeks Bids on Various Canned Foods

The Navy Department is asking for bids on various quantities of canned apricots, pears, assorted jams, peaches, pineapple, and peas. The opening date for bids on apricots is July 8; on pears, peaches, and pineapple, July 22, and on assorted jams and canned peas, July 29. Copies of the schedules on which bids are to be submitted may be secured from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Business Conditions

According to the Department of Commerce, for the week ended June 7 business, as measured by the volume of checks presented for payment, was 5 per cent lower than the preceding week and considerably below the level of the week ended June 8, 1929. Contracts awarded for new buildings for the latest reported week were more than the preceding period and fewer than the corresponding period in 1929.

Wholesale prices, remaining unchanged from the preceding week, were 8 per cent lower than the first week of June, 1929.

Bank loans and discounts for the week ended June 7 were 1 per cent greater than the preceding week and 4 per cent greater than the corresponding period last year. Prices for stocks registered declined from both comparative periods. Bond prices,

on the other hand, while showing no change from the preceding week, were 2 per cent higher than a year ago.

Interest rates for call money showed no change from a week ago, but were lower than the same period of last year. Time money rates were lower than both the preceding week and a year ago.

Movement of commodities by rail, as shown by statistics for the latest reported week, was less than the preceding week and less than the same week a year ago.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended May 31	960,349	341,462	215,785	303,092
Preceding week	981,472	364,372	240,276	320,984
Corresponding week, 1929	972,825	344,153	231,477	327,195
Corresponding week, 1928	934,673	370,911	230,742	323,020

Abstracts of Canning Technology

With this issue of the Information Letter is mailed a copy of the Abstracts of Canning Technology, Volume 8, Nos. 1 and 2 combined. Any member failing to receive this copy should advise the Association at once.

Weather Conditions

Temperatures, especially at night, were too cool for best growth of vegetation rather generally east of the Rocky Mountains except in the Northeast, according to the Weather Bureau's report for the week ended June 10. In the Atlantic area, where drought has been persistent for a long time, rather widespread and in many places generous rains afforded at least temporary relief, while showers were very helpful in the western Lake Region, many North Central districts and in most northern sections of the Ohio Valley. Rainfall continued scanty, however, with intensified droughty conditions over a considerable part of the interior, including West Virginia, most of Ohio, much of Kentucky and Tennessee, the eastern third of Missouri, and the southern portions of Indiana and Illinois.

Large Enrollment in Home Economics Courses

The Office of Education in a recent publication reports that there are 584 institutions of higher learning offering instruction in home economics. Of this number 322 reported as having a 4-year curriculum in home economics leading to a baccalaureate degree, 1,500 teachers and an enrollment of 37,619 students in their home economics departments.

Eighty-eight of these institutions reported as having courses in home economics but not granting a degree in that subject. Seventy-eight of these have 176 teachers and a student enrollment of 3,502 students in home economics.

Ninety normal schools and teachers colleges reported as offering courses in home economics but not granting a degree in that subject and as having 137 home economics teachers. Eighty-three of these institutions reported as having enrolled in home economics courses 6,556 students.

Eighty-four junior colleges reported as offering courses in home economics but not granting a degree in that subject. This number of institutions reported as having 120 teachers. Seventy-five of these institutions reported as having enrolled 2,963 students in home economics courses.

Of the 584 institutions reported as offering home economics, 547 reported 50,640 students enrolled in this subject.

Foreign Sardines Seized

Customs agents, acting under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, at the request of the Department of Justice, seized about 5,000 cases of Norwegian sardines on June 9. The sardines were taken from a warehouse where they had been stored by Chr. Bjelland & Company, Inc., named as one of the parties to an alleged illegal conspiracy in restraint of trade.

The Department of Justice has been investigating this complaint of violation of the Sherman Act and Wilson Tariff Act for more than five months, it is stated. The investigation disclosed that about January, 1929, all of the packers of Norwegian sardines entered into a contract to fix prices and regulate the sardine business in other ways. To make this agreement effective, it is alleged, they exacted pledges from persons doing business in the United States to abide by the terms of the agreement to sell only at fixed prices and to report violators of the combine's rules so that they might be boycotted. It is further alleged that the agreement has actually been made effective and that all competition in imported Norwegian sardines has been eliminated.

This form of proceeding by seizure is the third in the history of the Antitrust Laws. The first was in the tobacco case in 1907, the second in the quinine case in 1928. This is the second time that this step has been employed in an attempt to curb a foreign monopoly. It was explained at the Department of Justice that proceedings by seizure of goods under the Wil-

son Tariff Act has been followed because the principal parties, in cases of violation of the Antitrust laws by foreign monopolies, are beyond the jurisdiction of a court and cannot be reached by a subpoena. It is expected that a libel be filed shortly to forfeit the goods seized.

Department Stores Sales During May

Reports of the Federal Reserve System from 551 stores located in leading cities of all districts showed that department store sales in May declined only 1 per cent from the same month a year ago, according to the Federal Reserve Board on June 10. Sales during the first five months of the year were but 3 per cent below the level of a year ago.

Record Production of Tomatoes in Italy

The quantity of tomatoes produced in Italy in 1929 reached a figure never before attained in the history of this crop, according to the American consul at Naples. The abundant production was due largely to a greatly increased area planted to tomatoes (168,769 acres in 1929 compared with 125,526 acres in 1928), which in turn was caused by the very high prices ruling for tomatoes in the preceding season. However, while the crop in 1929 was very abundant, the quality in general was below normal and large quantities of vegetables were found unsuitable for canning purposes.

Italian tomato production in 1927, 1928 and 1929, and for the years 1923-1927, has been as follows:

Years	Pounds
1929	2,592,169,000
1928	1,213,412,000
1928	1,069,892,000
1923-27	1,302,478,000

Publications of Interest to Canners

Soil Acidity Tests.— In a bulletin entitled "Test Your Soil for Acidity," the Agricultural Experiment Station at Urbana, Ill., furnishes a method of testing and mapping soils for acidity, designed to meet the need of the average farmer. In a foreword it is stated that the plan has been used by many hundreds of Illinois farmers, who have found it both simple and practicable, and the means of saving many tons of limestone and many bushels of clover seed.

Corn Borer.— Corn borer developments during 1929 are

outlined in a four-page circular issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Urbana, which includes recommendations as to clean-up policy to prevent damage by the borer.

Apple Tree Pruning.— The pruning of apple trees in Illinois is the subject of a 16-page bulletin issued by the Experiment Station at Urbana, in which are summarized the methods developed from scientific investigations in recent years.

Tomato Canning in Arkansas.— The organization and management of tomato canneries in Arkansas are discussed in a 32-page bulletin issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Fayetteville. The bulletin presents a study of the cost of canning and selling tomatoes, and there is an especially interesting section devoted to the subject of capital requirements, including the amount of capital borrowed, the distribution of capital in value of product, the cost of capital, and the returns to various production factors. Other sections discuss the marketing of canned tomatoes and the various problems concerning the industry.